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We may be permitted to state that the views of our contributors and correspondents do not necessarily reflect the policy of the Wednesday Review.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

At the Conference held last week at Madras there was some interesting discussion on the point whether the Publicity Board should be responsible for keeping Government informed of the general trend of newspaper opinion. The objection raised to it was largely irrelevant and was justly overruled. It was gratuitously assumed that the Board would bring to the notice of the Government only whatever is objectionable in the writings in the newspapers. There is really no ground for such an apprehension. The Board will as gladly bring to the notice of the Government every bit of independent criticism appearing in the Press of their measures, and there is no reason to suppose that the Board will serve up only the objectionable writings. We cannot help thinking that at present the Government are seldom made aware of what appears in the more honest and responsible section of the Press. It is seldom that they are aware that there are newspapers who have a good word to say of them and earnestly strive to act as impartial interpreters between the Government and the people. It would almost seem that a Government who are ever ready to placate the extremists andwish to be in good odour with them do not care to know what the better sort of the press say of their measures. We have a suspicion that the indecent haste shown in trying to hustle Parliament into sanctioning far-reaching changes in the administration without a thought of their suitability was because Mr. Montagu was fed exclusively on the extremist press. Even now attempts are made to place before the Select Committee only the extremist view of the reforms. The only lesson which the Government here should learn from these manovres is that an oganisation is immediately necessary to bring to the notice of the Government what the more respectable and thoughtful section of the Press says of their various measures.

The personnel of the Select Committee appointed to examine the reform scheme is not quite satisfactory, at any rate so far as the section representing the Commons is concerned. It is a packed Committee, so to say, and most of the members have by their speeches on the bill pledged themselves to support whatever proposals Mr. Montagu may choose to place before them. They cannot be excepted to keep an open mind on the subject and may be satisfied with what evidencethey may have access to. There is no use in having a committee who have made up their minds and the personnel of the Select Committee is but

another instance of Mr. Montagu's methods of canvassing support to his scheme. Unless the Lords some of whom have an intimate knowledge of Indian conditions guide the Committee in its work, we may as well have no committee at all. It is some satisfaction that Earl Selborne is the Chairman. His lordship is one of the few British statesmen who have managed so far to keep their heads on their shoulders, in regard to Indian affairs. It was Lord Selborne who exclaimed on the occasion of the debate, in the Lords on the muzzling of Dr. Nair, 'My Lords, I cannot help reflecting that we are a most extraordinary people.' He expressed his surprise that because in time of war and of great emergency the Government thought it unwise to allow an avowed enemy of England to come agitating against British rule, fair play demanded that they should not allow an avowed and loyal friend to speak up for the country. '1 wholly disbelieve' said his lordship 'in this principle of Government and should be sorry by my silence to have convined at it.' The Earl of Selborne must have realised more and more that the present Secretary of State has all along displayed undue anxiety to keep well with the extremists and has been lavish in his praise of them. The reform bill has been designed to please them, if possible, and the fact will have to be remembered by the Earl of Selborne and the Select Committee in sifting evidence that may be placed before them in support of the Montagu proposals of reform.

Lord Curzon's speech in moving for the appointment of a Select Committee, is better reading than his previous utterances on Indian reform He warned the House that nothing should be done to weaken or diminish the protection of the vast multitude of the poor classes in India by the British Government. The Select Committee will have to examine closely each proposal of reform and satisfy themselves that it would not in any way weaken the protection afforded to the masses by the strong arm of Britain and they are not handed over to political amateurs. Lord Curzon did well in explaining that the franchise was nothing to the great mass of the Indian people and it would not touch them at all. The people, as Lord Curzon pointed out, really wanted security, justice and freedom from oppression for which they had learned to look to British Governors. That sums up the real situation in India and the outlook of the masses of the population who know little of Mr. Montagu and less of his scheme of reform. The educative value of an artificially widened franchise will be almost nil and the magic wand of Mr. Montagu will avail nothing against the stern fact that more than 98 per cent of the population are in an abyss of ignorance and cannot be expected to exercise the franchise which an obliging Secretary of State may extend to them, intelligently and to their advantage. Lord Salisbury has done a good service to the people of India by drawing the attention of his colleagues to the circustance that the Local Governments have expressed their serious misgivings as to the suitability' of several of the changes contemplated in the bill. It is notorious that the Secretary of State has chosen to show scant consideration to the views of the Local Governments who have a better knowledge of Indian conditions than a couple of reforming zealots who know next to nothing of India. That is a circumstance which ought not to be lost sight of by the Joint-Committee in appraising evidence on the reform proposals. Lord Salisbury rightly contended that the House was not pledged to the principle of the bill and it is open to the Committee to examine if the principle is all right, without accepting it as inevitable.

We trust the Allies will not be misled into the belief that with the signing of the peace treaty, their watch over Germany may be relaxed. Perhaps with any other nation, such a belief may be justified. But with Germany it is a different matter altogether. The Huns signalised their readiness to sign the treaty by sinking their Fleet, in open defiance of the terms of the armistice and who knows what devilry they may not cherish against the Allies even yet? The British Press has hit off the German temperament correctly when it says that Germany is making peace with hatred in her heart and with no evidence of contrition. That is appraising the Germans at their true value, and the Allies will have no excuse for valuing them differently. We have to sound this warning as the Germans have proved to be past-masters in the art of prolonging negotiations and they showed what they could do in that line before they could persuade themselves to sign the peace treaty. In this connection we have to say again that the League of Nations fad is delaying matters unnecessarily and if the Peace Conference had addressed itself to the main task before it, the peace would have been signed long ago. German militarism is still rearing its head and let it not be supposed that the signing of the peace treaty has effectively exorcised it.

It now appears that Mrs. Besant was not correctly reported when Reuter wired that she thought that it would take forty years for India to become ripe for home rule. Her whilom admirers could not reconcile that view to her oft-repeated declaration that India was fit for home rule the moment she wanted it. A subsequent message says that Mrs. Besants forty years related to the period in which India should fit up her own navy and army to defend herself against oreign aggression. But we fail to see how it

makes any difference. India's fitness for home rule must synchronise with her possession of an efficient army and navy. Before that day she cannot be said to be ripe for home rule unless it corresponds to the definition of it by home rule agitators that Indian extremists should have all the administrative loaves and fishes to themselves while the Britisher will have the privilege of maintaining their accounts and relieving him of the inconvenience of guarding India's shores and frontiers. The extremists do not see that the Britisher may slightly demur to such an one-sided arrangement under which the Indian politician will have all the rights and the Britisher the responsibilities. Mrs. Besant's corrected version is not more enlightening. But it is evident that she is slowly opening her eyes to the realities of the situation and we shall not be surprised if one of these days she thoroughly recants and repents The transition in her case may be abrupt or may be slow but there are unmistakeable signs of it and we shall await developments.

The Indian Social Reformer writes:—Sir George Lloyd's speeches on Local Self-Government during his recent tour in the districts, should put heart into those who are doing their little to advance local self-government in this Presidency. The greatest obstacle to the development of the civic spirit is the prevailing feeling that the district officals—and Government—regard local self-government with jealousy and are pleased to heart decried and its minor faults exaggerated by interested persons. We must in fairness say that there has been little cause for this feeling of recent years and, especially since Sir Ibrahim Rahimatoola has been in charge of the portfolio, Municipal and Local bodies are conscious of a sense of security that they will not be condemned unheard and that their wants and wishes will obtain a fair and friendly hearing. But it is well that His Excellency, as the head of the Government, has publicly and forcibly declared that he welcomes enterprise and initiative on the part of Local Bodies, that his Government has in immediate view legislation for expanding their financial powers and that in brief the steady development of Local self-Government on vigorous lines is an organic part of his Government's policy. We can assure His Excellency that his wise and weighty words have already had an excellent effect in allaying faction and enforcing on reactionaries the wholesome lesson that they have got to cooperate with their fellow-citizens in carrying on local and municipal Government, and that Government are far from pleased to get petitions asking for the suspension of municipal bodies on the most flimsy pretexts. We entirely agree with His Excellency that the weakness of our municipal bodies is their reluctance to pay adequate salaries to capable officers, and to devolve on them the full responsibility for carrying out a policy which has been settled upon by the General Body. But there are many signs of improvement in these directions also.

The following from the *Englishman* will be of interest to the agriculturists:—The present need for the rapid and economical cultivation of available land has led to considerable progress being made in the production of agricultural machinery suitable for intensive operations and many engineering firms have lately taken up the manufacture of various machines for this purpose such as motor ploughs, and motor tractors specially adapted for agricultural work. Although an attempt was made to introduce such machinery into India a few years ago, the time was then probably not ripe but it cannot be doubted that with the increasing food requirements and in view of the high pitch of efficiency which has now been reached in the construction of this plant, it will ultimately find a wide field of application not only in India but also in Mesopotamia with its huge tracts of undeveloped agricultural lands and its abundant supply of liquid fuel. Whilst the war was in progress and capital and operating costs were secondary considerations compared with the necessity of obtaining any machinery that was required as quickly as possible, various types of motor ploughs and tractors were built which will probably not be able to stand against the commercial competition which is now beginning to enter Farmers, for instance are no longer inclined to adop petrol driven machines owing to their high cost of running whilst they are also demanding that tractors and ploughs should be designed for the special work for which they have to be used having regard to the varying conditions in different parts of the world and even in different parts of the same country. Several British automobile firms such as the Austen and Co, have designed and built ploughs fitted with a heavy type of motorcar engine whilst other builders of stationary oil-engine have adapted their designs for similar purposes and it is probable that this latter type will be generally used in the future unless the former be adapted to run on kerisene by the additon of a special vaperiser, A motor operating on heavy oil is still more desirable although in India and Mesopotamia where the difference between the prices of kerosene and heavy oil is not so great as in many other parts of the world, this point is not of the first importance. The smallest agricultural tractors now being built are only of 2-3 h, p, being very light and having one are two deserving wheels. They are guided by the operator who walks behind and are mainly employed in hoeing and weeding and for market gardeners. With such small sizes the cost of fuel is low in any case and petrol motors may be utilised, A medium size of 8 to 12 h, p, is manufactured for slightly heavier work and can be used for operations to a depth of about 6 inches or slightly more, but a good type plough suitable for general service oil type running at 500 r. p, m and having a consumption of about 2½ gallons per hour.

THE
Wednesday Review

WEDNESDAY, 9 JULY, 1919.

A PUBLICITY BOARD FOR MADRAS.

The Conference which met at Madras last week at the invitation of His Excellency the Governor accorded its support to the proposal of the Government to organise a publicity board. The object of the organisation is two-fold; to interpret correctly to the people the activities of the Government and to apprise the Government of the trend of public opinion on matters of public policy. There can be no difference of opinion on the need and desirability of an organisation to achieve that object. When a section of the press and a certain class of agitators are engaged in the pastime of discrediting the Government in the eyes of the people and crying, fudge, to whatever they say or do, it is certainly incumbent on the Government to devise an effective antidote to misrepresentations of their measures and to arrest untoward developments. If that should be the main purpose for which a publicity board is to be organised, we fail to see why it should refrain from interpreting generally to the people Government's policy and actions. Some of the speakers at the Conference objected to the Board being asked to interpret the actions of the Government and at their instance His Excellency agreed to delete it from the purview of the publicity board. We must in all frankness point out if the Board should refrain from educating publc opinion on official measures, it will not have very much left to do. Under the peculiar circumstances now existing, we want more than anything else an organisation which will correctly interpret the intentions of the Government to the people. It was a short-sighted view which the speakers took about the matter and Lord Willingdon ought not to have accepted it. As at present proposed, the publicity board will confine its activities to the dissemination of accurate information regarding public events and the dissemination of facts which the technical departments desire to communicate to the public. If there be people who are bent upon suspecting the *bona fides* of the Board, it will not be difficult for them to misread the information which the Board may supply regarding public events. Take a riot or a train disaster. If the Board gave an account of the riot, it is just easy for an agitator to tell the people that the account is varnished and the riot was due to some official high-handedness and the rioters are quite innocent and if there was damage or injury the police or the magistracy must make good the loss. Again if there was a train disaster and if the Board should mention that a certain number of passengers were injured the agitator will not be slow to say that the number given is a deliberate underestimate by the Board, and it is afraid of giving out the correct figure. As for the dissemination of facts which the technical departments desire to communicate to the public, it does not require a separate organisation for it. The technical departments themselves may with greater authority disseminate the facts in their reports or by special bulletins. We trust we have made it sufficiently clear that if the publicity board should refrain from interpreting the actions and policy of the Government, there will be no use for the Board at all. Let us analyse the situation. We have on the one hand an alien Government whose actions are not known to the large masses of the population who are woefully ignorant, and on the other, there is a small but a very articulate section who for various reasons deliberately misunderstand and misinterpret the actions of the Government. And an ignorant population very often swallow what the agitators say. The mischief thus done is not inconsiderable and has to be effectively counteracted in the interests of good government and well-being of the people. There is besides a pretty large class who are sufficiently literate and intelligent to understand public questions. They are to be found in various public offices and engaged in different occupations. They have neither the time nor the inclination to do any thinking on their own account and are content to take their opinions from a certain class of newspapers. The ideas they imbibe from reading them they circulate among their illiterate neighbours fully believing that the attitude taken by the newspapers they read is the only one, possible and correct. Small blame to them. For lack of any other literature, they eagerly devour whatever is contained in a newspaper, and go on the principle that whatever is printed must be true. They are too much obsessed by the glamour of print to entertain any other opinion. But they have no bias and will be prepared to consider any other views which may be put before them. It is only the absence of other points of view of a public question from their sphere of life and lack of access to them which interfere with their independence of judgment. It is thus that wrong and mischievous ideas gaily spread among the ignorant masses. It is this class who have to be got at and who have to be educated on public questions on the right lines. Being fed on a particular kind of pabulum their judgment is warped but they have no prejudice and they will gladly read up any literature that may come their way. It is with them the work of the Publicity Board really lies and the *raison d'etre* of it will be gone if the Board should be precluded from interpreting to them the actions and policy of the Government.

THE TRUTH THAT MAKES ALL FREE.

By "Workman."

"*The Multitude will copy the actions of the enlightened*" said to be an extract from a Divine Song, must evidently have been inspired on the understanding that the multitude believed in the Truth of the enlightenment; which however put in practice by those claiming authority, as being fully in the know, often means liability to lead the ignorant to mass movements, on the faith of statements not accepted as Truth by the world, and consequently resisted; the trouble falling on the unenlightened, while the leader goes free!

'Enlightenment' is what all the world seeks; but its application first needs general acceptance; then ways and means have to be found for safe and simple development from the '*statusquo*'. For National safety Preachers should be licensed, and held responsible for their doctrines, and actions.

The Almighty granted Intelligence to Humanity which is by no means the especial monopoly of scientists. The Individual claims, as between himself and the Neighbour, to exercise his intelligence on his own responsibility. And while he is ready for good cause shown to follow a lead in the mass, he expects the object and aim of the lead to be constructive, and not destructive.

While a man may be ready to listen to advice and suggestions,—as for instance, to observe a Swadeshi vow,—he strongly objects to be coerced by the neighbour to do so,—or to have his freedom in bazaar purchases interfered with. The attempt to use force for the purpose means, civil war, as anyone can foresee.

The great enlightened who claim to speak for the Priestly caste, but launch outside their function onto techanical matters of World work and government, not soldom make the grossest mistakes in their tecchnologies, which they hope to carry through as 'Truth', under the aegis of Spiritualism.

There is probably more common sense in the mass, than amongst such spiritually enlightened when they essay to set the copy in regard to practical work and conduct to the multitude.

Spiritualism deals with the ideal perfect in man; while his work and government are necessarily organised to deal with his imperfections which are many: and to fix him with 'responsibility' to society by means of Laws of Caste and work organisation.

What is the mass to think of a system of government that allows the power of control to be irresponsibly exercised by another authority outside it, and by deliberately organised scientific methods! Is it a good use of science or an abuse of it?

Man being constituted with powers semi-divine: and the other half simply human, the divine element revolts at the imperfections of the human. Life would be insupportable without the refuse of the Religious ideal, which though realised under various forms, conveys the identical basic inspiration of love, if not misrepresented by the preacher.

The first error of the reformer of systems then arises when humanity is attacked by imputing to unless the evil motive, which nobody admits His next mistake is confusing the powers and responsibilities in action which can be easily availed of, and those that are beyond control.

For the scientist to attack a government through the charge of spiritual inferiority, is the first step to an unnecessary religious war, since the primary function of temporal governments is to see to the protection and feeding of peoples by efficient and economical use of Power inside and outside the realm.

The universal power acting both inside and outside the state is that for producing and distributing the food essential to existence; and the effort to regulate supplies to demand is a matter of world work and Governmnent. No state can ignore what other states are doing that might interfere with the business, or can preserve its isolation in face of duty it owes to the general co-operative effort, without certainty of attack some time or another. It may imagine its economic postulates perfect for domestic purposes, while its world policy may be laying the foundation of decay and disaster, as has been demonstrated in the history of all countries, and empires ancient and modern from time immemorial.

What the spiritualists and learned doctors of divinity can do in their proper sphere of action is to enlist the co-operation of the teachers of every denomination to support the ideal world government for which the statesmen in responsible office all over the world are now trying to establish a *modus operandi*. It is a teachincal business that must take a considerable time to adjust itself to new methods of work, and the exchanges of the products of labour.

Conditions can only be arranged through the responsible authorities of established governments, working in concert.

An office for the necessary deliberations is about to be started, for the Leage of Nations and we may well await the result of its announcements without worrying ourselves about the *bona fides* of enlightened enthusiasts contributing their bit to the search for the truth that will make all peoples free!

At the same time, the duty of Governments is plain;—and the preachers must be held responsible for the confusion of ideas they create in the mass, and the damage they consciously or unconsciously thereby cause to innocent people.

CRAMP COLKC.

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TOPICS FROM PERIODICALS.

MR. RUDYARD KIPLING.

I. THE GOOD STORY-TELLER.

Mr. Kipling is an author whom one has loved and hated a good deal. One has loved him as the eternal schoolboy revelling in bad language and dangerous living. One has loved him less, but one has at least listened to him, as the knowing youth who could tell one all about the ladies of Simla. One has found him rather adorable as the favourite uncle with the faunny animal stories. One has been amazed by his magnificent make-believe as he has told one about dim forgotten peoples that have disappeared under the ground. One has detested him, on the other hand, as the evangelist with the umbrella—the little Anglo-Indian, Prussian who sings hymns of hate and Hempire

Luckily, this last Kipling is allowed an entirely free voice only in verse. If one avoids "Barrack Room Ballads" and "The Seven Seas," one misses the worst of him. He visits the prose stories, too, it is true, but he does not dominate them in the same degree. Prose is his easy-chair, in which his genius as a humorist and anecdatalist can expand. Verse is a platform that tempts him at one moment into the performance of music-hall turns and the next into stump orations the spiritual home of which is Hyde park Corner rather than Parnassus. "Recessional" surprises one like a noble recantation of nearly all the other verse Mr. Kipling has written. But, apart from "Recessional most of his political verse is a mere quickstep of bragging and sneering.

His prose, certainly, stands a tenth or a twentieth reading, as his verse does not. Even in a world which Henry James or Mr. Conrad has taught to study motives and atmospheres with an almost scientific carefulness, Mr. Kipling's "well-hammered anecdotes," as Mr. George Moore once discribed the stories, still refuse to bore us.

At the same time, they make a different appeal to us from their appeal of twenty or twenty-five years ago. In the early days, we half-worshipped Mr. Kipling because he told us true stories. Now we enjoy him because he tells us amusing stories. He conquered us at first by making us think him a realist. He was the man who knew. We listened to him like children drinking in travellers' tales. He bluffed us with his cocksure way of talking about things, and by addressing us in a mysterious jargon which we regarded as a proof of his intimacy with the barrack-room, the engine-room, the race-course, and the lives of generals, Hindus, artists and charwomen. That was Mr. Kipling's trick. He assumed the realistic manner as Jacob assumed the hairy hands of Esau. He compelled us to belive him by describing with elaborate details the setting of his story. And having once got us in the mood of belief, he proceeded to spin a yarn that as often as not was unlike life as "A Yankee at the Court of king Arthur." His characters are inventions, not portraits. Even the dialects they speak dialects which used to be enthusiastically spoken of as masterly achievements of realism—are ludicrously false to life, as a page of Mulvaney;s or Ortheris's talk will quickly make clear to anyone who knows the real thing. But with what humour the stories are told! Mr. Kipling does undoubtedly possess the genius of humour and energy. There are false touches in the boys' conversation in "The Drums of the Fore and Aft," but the humour and energy with which the progress of the regiment to the frontier, its disgrace and its rescue by the drunken children are described, make it one of the most admirable short stories of our time.

His humour, it must be admitted, is akin to the picturesque. It is amusing to reflect as one looks round the disreputable company of Mr. Kipling's characters, that his work has now been given a place in the literature of law and order. When "Stalky and Co-" was published, parents and school masters protested in alarm, and it seemed doubtful for a time whether Mr. Kipling was to be reckoned among the enemies of society. If I am not mistaken *The Spectaior* came down on the side of Mr. Kiping, and his reputation as a respectable author was saved.

But the parents and the school-masters were not nervous without cause. Mr Kipling is an anarchist in his preferencs to a degree that no bench of bishops could approve. He is, within limits, on the side of the Ishmaelites-the bad boys of the school, the "rips'; of the regiment. His books are the praise of the Ishmaelitish life in a world of law and order. They are seldom the praise of a law and order life in a world of law and order. Mr. Kipling demands only one loyalty (beyond mutual loyaty) from his characters. His schoolboys may break every rule in the place, provided that some-where deep down in their hearts they are loyal to the "Head" His pet soldiers may steal dogs or get drunk, or behave brutally to their heart's content, on condition that they cherish a sentimental affection for the Colonel. Critics used to explain this aspect of Mr. Kipling's work by saying that he likes to show the heart of good in things evil. But that is not really a characteristic of his work. What he is most interested in is neither good nor evil but simple roguery. As an artist, he is a born rebel and lover of mischief. As a politician, he is on the side of the judges and the lawyers. It was his politics and not his art that ultimately made him the idol of the genteel word.

II THE POET OE LIEF WITH A CAPITAL HELL.

Everybody who is older than a schoolboy remembers how Mr. Rudyard Kipling was once a modern. He might, indeed, have been described at the time as a Post Imperialist. Raucous and young, he had left behind him the ornate Imperialism of Disraeli, on the one hand, and the cultivated Imperialism of Tennyson, on the other. He sang of Imperialism as it was or was about to be-vulgar and canting and bloody-and a world that was preparing itself for an Imperialism that would be vulgar and canting and bloody bade him welcome. In one breath he would give you an invocation to Jehovah In the next, with a dig in the ribs; he would be

getting round the roguish side of you with the assurance that:—

If you've ever stole a pheasant-egg behind the [keeper's back,
If you've ever snigged the washin' from the line
If you've ever crammed a gander in your bloomin [aversack;
You will understand this little song o' mine.

This Jumble—which seems so curious nowadays of delight in piety and delight in twopence-colored mischiefs came as a glorious novelty and respite race of Victorians. Hitherto they had been building up an Empire decently and in order no doubt, many reprehensible things were being done, but they were being done quietly: outwardly, so far as was possible, a respectable front was preserved. It was Mr. Lipling;s distinction to tear off the mask of Imperialism as a needless and irritating encumbrance; he had too much sense of reality--too much humour, indeed—to want to portray Empire-builders as a company of plaster saints. Like an *enfant terrible,* he was ready to proclaim aloud a host of things which had, until then, been kept as decorously in the dark as the skeleton in the family cupboard. The *M. A. B.*

PROBLEMS OF CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE.

Some thirty years ago the writer was talking in the Lobby of the House of Commons to the late Lord Courtney, then member of the Gold and Silver Commission, about the problem of Exchange. For the first time in history—at least since the Babylonian captivity, the ratio fixed between the two precious metals *by some law somewhere*—this exchange ratio had split 'wide open.' John Bright happened to pass, and Courtney said 'Bright, do you know anything about the Silver Question ?, 'Well, No !; said the other with entire seriousness, 'I do not, but I am credibly informed there are people who do.' Courtney, himself a man without much humour, laughed and, as Bright walked off, said 'I often wonder whether that belief of Bright is correct. Do you personally knew any such strange people or have you merely "heard tell" of them?' I was reminded of this incident by reading a really wonderful monograph in this Review for October last, 'A New standard Price for Gold.; Enough to say we can have a new price for gold, and we can exchange our Gold Standard for a new standard which is not Gold, but 'a new Standard Price for Gold' is not thinkable. A troy ounce of gold is twenty pennyweights, and each five pennyweights we stamp and we call the disk a sovereign, and for a similar reason of convenience we divide our foot into twenty-four inches, then and not till then can we make five pennyweights of gold ten pennyweights. The law can of course fix a silver valuation for gold as it has in times past fixed a new gold valuation for silver, or it can pay ten paper pounds for an ounce of gold, but the *gold price* of an ounce of gold is—an ounce of gold.

The problems of Currency and Exchange will, in the days at hand, very largely control that problem which is of all the most important, namely, the problem of the new price-level of commodities. What is the new World's new price-level going to be ? Our prices in England have about doubled since the War. Thus the gold value of all our assets, which in 1913 was roughly twelve thousand millions sterling, may now perhaps be twenty-four thousand millions. Our National Debt is, let us say, eight thousand millions. Thus, if prices remain at the present level, the National Debt regarded as a first mortgage on a property worth twenty-four thousand millions is 33 per cent. of the value of the property ; but should prices revert to their pre-war level thd burden of the mortgage —that which our nation owes its creditor class—will be not 33 per cent. but 66 per cent. And should prices fall further to anything like price level of 1896, then the gold valuation of our entire assests would be a great deal less than the amount of the eight thousand millions for which they are mortgaged. That would spell of course our National Bankruptcy.

To find any such disturbance in the price-level as that we have passed through between 1896 and 1919 we should have to go back to the seventeenth century. During the first forty years of that century wages in England rose from half a crown a week to twelve shillings ; the prices in similar ratio. Adam Smith deals with this price-inflation and declares that every economist has attributed it to the great abundance of the new money from the silver mines of Potosi in Bolivia. We may be sure then that in the days at hand when the question of the rate of wages must turn on the general level of prices and prices will themselves be largely controlled by the currency and by the rate of exchange, men's minds as never before will study these some what esoteric economics. Our statesmen and financiers, who are as a rule but ill-equipped as to the problems of the Foreign Exchanges, will be utterly in the dark as to the root cause of price-movements. And not only so, but the violent exchange fluctuations at hand must often negative and neutralise tariffs, no matter how scientifically these tariffs are devised. Labour also, quite in the dark as to exchange problems, will be at a great disadvantage and will everywhere believe itself betrayed.

An object-lesson of great value presents itself to-day with a scarcely evaded strike of the cotton operatives in Lancashire ; and for the relief of what may otherwise prove a national disaster we shall look with confidence to a further advance in the rate of rupee exchange. Let us note carefully what is now transpiring. In the issue of this Review for November 1913 I explained in much detail the gathering crisis in the Indian Exchange. It is enough here to say that the world of trade for many years has been in full sight of a serious shortage of silver from the mines. Now India has

for a century enjoyed a large balance of exports over imports, which tends to become ever larger with each further extension of her railway system. India has liquidated this balance by a steady drain of the two precious metals to her hoards. With a silver standard before 1893 she drew her balances as to one quarter in gold and three quarters in silver. Since we forced her upon a so-called 'Gold Standard; in spite of the warnings of every economist, she has about reversed the proportions of the 'drain' and now the great rise of our gold prices, which doubles the drain of specie to India to defray the same tonnage balance, threatens to scrape the bullion markets of the West bare of both the precious metals and leave us with no metallic cover for our banknote. What alone could meet a situation so perilous is an immensely increased production of silver. Now it is in the power of the Government of India and by a stroke of the pen to raise the world-price of silver, for the price of silver is the price at which the Indian Government buys or sells silver. The Secretary of State for India is the autocrat of the silver Market. Often he buys much more silver in the year for coinage into rupees (due allowance having been made for the steady demand by the silversmiths' trade) than is produced by all the mines in the world, and he sells also in the form of 'Council Bills' every year perhaps two hundred and fifty million ounces of the coined rupees which are lying in the Indian Treasuries. Thus if the India Office will advance the price of its Council Bills at its weekly sales then the price of silver bullion is everywhere advanced. A year ago the Government of India was in extreme straits for rupees. The only great purse of silver adequate to save the situation was the mass of coined dollars in the Treasuary vaults at Washington, and with the new comity of our realations on the Potomac this mass of silver was purchased for India's needs, the price fixed being a dollar an ounce, at which price also it was arranged with the matter, still shrouded in much unnecessary mystery, appears to have been left by our Government in the hands of Lord Reading assisted by a gentlemen who in the past has enjoyed official relations with the Indian Government. The price which they endeavoured to fix was as low as 86 cents an ounce, a price most dangerously inadequate and which was likely to result in a reduced and not an increased production of silver. Thanks chiefly to the activities of the Governors of the Rocky Mountain 'Silver State,' who were captained by the Governor of the State of Nevada, the 'dollar rate' for Silver bullion was secured. In Governor Bovle the good State of Nevada had at the supreme moment found the rightful heir to my splendid old friend and its late Senator, Jonh P. Jones of so many pleasant memories.

Mr. MORETON FREWEN. in the *Nineteenth Century.*

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HINDU MEDICINE FOR THE WEST.

The present tendency of Western medical research appears to be directed more towards depth and less towards breadth, and herein lies the danger of wrong generalisation. Is it any wonder that an assumption is sometimes mistaken for knowledge? How often the thoughtful reader finds in the writings and speeches of distinguished members of the medical profession the unknown, the uncertain, the possible, the probable, and the plausible set forth as scientific truths? By dint of constant repetition in the public press all sorts of favourite hypotheses and theories are thus labelled in the unthinking mind as scientific truths.

Will theorists ever satisfy the critical mind as to whether evolution is a power or only a process? It is true that centuries before the birth of Darwin, as Sir Monier Williams says, Darwinism in different forms and followers in India, but I have little doubt that have Darwin dived deep into Sanskrit literature on evolution he would have not only agreed with the Hindu Rishis of old that evolution was merely a process, but would have been converted to the Hindu view of epigenesis, based on the theory of Vital Force. The problems relating to the mystery of life are as much open questions to-day as they were long before the days of Alexander the Great, to Dhanvantari the founder of Hindu medicine. Every attempt to answer those open questions has raised a number of still more open questions and really answered none.

Hindu specialists have been at work for centuries to combat senile decay. Probably the most prominent feature of natural change due to advanced age is loss of memory. Meynert says that no less than six million nerve cells are in charge of a man's memory. Many centuries before Meynert the Hindu scientist found out that no mental training was of much use if the fibres which connected cells, or groups of cells relating to memory had lost their elasticity through degenerative changes due to senility. Our medical proverb, "A man is as old as his arteries" is no doubt true. But the Sanskrit medical maxim, "An old man is as young as the elasticity of his tissues," is perhaps still more apt. Relying on the accuracy of that trite Hindu saying, the Hindu set to work long before Galen to find out how to lubricate the skin and tissues from inside, and to make sure that the brain had the lion's share of the best blood the man possessed. But that alone would not retard senile decay unless adequate measures

were taken to reduce the impoverishment of blood due to old age.

This the Hindu physician achieves by internal and extenal medicines, the most potent of all Hindu medicines for retarding the infirmities of advancing years being Makaradhvaj. I remember a gentleman over eight years of age, who came to Mr. Mitra about a couple of years ago to be treated for insomnia. His insomnia was complicated by other troubles. When Mr. Mitra gave him a medicated Himalayan oil for application on his head, the doctor who accompained him smiled, and said that the rigidity of the tissues of the scalp would make it impossible for any oil to soothe his head. But after he had used this Hindu medicated oil for less than six weeks, Mr. Mitra received a letter from him saying that he was "sleeping much better." The internal medicine which Mr. Mitra gave him also helped him, and convinced the scepital doctor of the value of the Hindu medicines as remedies for senile decay. Mr. Mitra uses different kinds of Himalayan oils, some of which give elasticity to fibrous and others to muscular and glanular tissues. Some Himalayan oils have a marvellous effect on arthritis and chronic gout.

I know a lady over seventy years of age who, by taking only once a day one-forth of a level teaspoonful of a very palatable Hindu medical preparation is able to ward of the infirmities of advancing years and defy senility in every form. She assures all her friends that this simple Hindu treatment keeps her in excellent health, and she feels no doubt that in her case senile decay has been held in abeyance for several years.

Most of the troubles which beset a women when she is between forty and fifty years of age, whether they take the form of pyhsical or mental disorder, are ascribed to change of life. But why should such troubles be considered inevitable, and why should a woman resign herself to them? These are the questions which Hindu nerve specialists asked themselves many centuries ago. They were not satisfied with simply asking these questions; they answered them satisfactorily by preparing three kinds of Himalayan food, which, with certain modifications to suit European constitutions, Mr. Mitra gives to his lady patients, and saves them from the so-called invitable, or from its actual consequences, even if they are sixty or seventy years of age. The medicine is by no means unpalatable, and the daily does is only a quarter of a level teaspoonful in a cup of hot milk, or, if the patient prefers it, she may take it in pure honey. The food soon gives tone to the organs of depuration, viz., the lungs, kidneys, skin and bowels, and thus helps nature in getting rid of the accumulated wasted and morbid matter in the system. Before the patient has finished three ounces of one of these remarkable Himalayan foods the normal equlibrium of her organism is generally established. Her nervous system undergoes thorough overhauling, and if she is not very old her vital organs are put into unobstructed communication with her great nerve centre. Thus, in about threep months she feels the rejuvenating effect of the simple Hindu treatment, and in about six or eight months all her "inevitable" troubles are at an end. This easy treatment for the aliments which assail a woman at one of the most critical periods of her, life is becoming quite popular in Bournemought where Mr. Mitra has settled down since he left London in November 1914.

The Hindu treatment of the drug habit, as practised by Mr. Mitra, consists in a very small does of a medicine taken internally only once a day, and in the application of about thirty drops of a certain kind of Himalayan oil, which is gently rubbed, in some cases daily and in other cases on alternate days, on the patient's head, spine, abdomen, and soles of the feet. In about six to eight weeks' time the patient feels his nerves soothed; in another eight or ten weeks he no longer feels the craving for drugs to which he may have been a slave for year); and in about six or eight months the very idea of taking drugs disgusts him. In this way the most confirmed drug-taker is reclaimed, to the wonder and great delight of his relatives and friends. The particular nature of the drug that he was in the habit of taking is immaterial. I know a lady considerably over eighty years of age who, under the advice of English doctors had been taking veronal for insomnia for more than twenty years. She started Mr. Mitra's simple Hindu treatment only a few months ago and can now sleep without veronal and recommends the treatment to her friends, as does her daughter who has been saved from emaciation by Hindu treatment. It is needless to say that both mother and daughter had consulted many English doctors before trying the Hindu treatment.

The Empire Review.

ECONOMIC PRODUCTS.

Fuel from Household Waste.

Scientific American writes :—A method of utilizing ordinary household refuse has been invented by Mr. Reginald Brown (President of the Instittute of Municipal Engineers of England), who has supplied the following particulars.

It is claimed that the whole of the refuse collected from houses (such as ashes, cinders, paper, straw, and vegetable matter) can be dealt with and turned into fuel, thus conserving the coal supply. Mr. Brown assumes that in a community having a population of 100,000 there would be 25,000 tons annually of refuse, and he shows that the sale of the prepared fuel even when marketed at a low price, would result in considerable revenue and profit.

On arrival at the refuse disposal works the refuse is tipped into a crusher and reduced to a powder. It is then lifted by an elevator and made into small blocks by means of a briquetting machine. No binding material is added at this stage.

From the briquetting machine the blocks are placed on carrying trays capable of holding approximately one ton, and conveyed by means of an overhead travelling pulley into a drying store. One day is usual for air drying—the briquets being fairly porous—and on the following day the trays containing the briquets are dipped bodily into tanks holding a mixture of oil-tar and pitch of such a consistency as to permeat easily and quickly the whole of each briquet. Thence the blocks are taken to the storage bins and can be used as fuel when and where required. If fuel of greater calorific value be required, the bripuets, instead of being dipped, are placed in a cylinder and impregnated under pressure.

It is pointed out oil-tar is used because of its high disinfecting, calorific, and binding qualities, as it contains 20 percent, of carbolic and 20 percent of pitch in a finely divided state, and being obtained from oil (used at gun works for enriching gas) its heating value is high. It is claimed that by this process the treating of the refuse is sanitary and be carried anywhere without creating anusance.

WHITEWASH AS A PAINT SUBSTITUTE.

A whitewash that is almost as serviceable as and cheaper than the cheapest paint for wood, brick, or stone, has been used by the United States Government for whitewashing lighthouses. It has also been used to embellish the east end of the white House in Washington. The whitewash is made as follows:—

"Shake half a bushel of lime with boiling water, cover during the process to keep in steam, strain the liquid through a fine sieve or strainer and add to it a peck of salt, previously dissolved in warm water three pounds of ground rice boiled to a thin paste and stirred in while hot, half a pound of Spanish whiting, and one pound of clear glue previously dissolved by soaking in cold water and then hanging over a slow fire in a small pot hung in a larger one filled with water. Add five gallons of hot water to the mixture, stir well, and let it stand a few days, covered from dirt. It should be applied hot, for which purpose it can be kept in a kettle or portable furnace." By the addition of colouring matter various shades of colour can be obtained. The colouring matters generally used are ochre, chrome Dutch pink, raw sienna for yellows and buff Venetian red, burnt sienna, Indian red or purple brown for reds celestial blue ultsamarine, indigo for blues; red and blue for purple gray or lavender; red lead and chrome for orange; Brunswick green for greens, Yellow ochre added to the whitewash gives a cream colour; lamp-black or ivory block produces a pearl or lead tint; four pounds of umber to one pound of Indian seed and one pound of lampblack makes fawn and four pounds of umber and two pounds of lampblack produces the common stone colour.

SELECTION.

PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRY.

Diplomacy and Commerce.

Long before the war there was a general feeling that the British Consular Service had failed in its functions as regards the development of trade. Departmental Committees appointed, during the war, to inquire into the conditions of the various large industries have endorsed the general dissatisfaction. The Engineering Industries Committee was very definite. It recommended the establishment of a Consular Service, manned by men of business knowledge, under the control of the Foreign Office. The latter point it regarded as important in order that the Consul might be in direct contact with the Ambassador, and on the ground that the Foreign Office should recognise that "trade is the basis of British *raison d'etre* in foreign countries." It also recommended the extension of the system of Commercial Attaches who might be the connecting link between the Consular Service and the Embassy. This view was endorsed by Lord Robert Cecil in 1916, when he said that diplomacy cannot be divorced from commerce and that commercial interests demand knowledge of the political condition of the country. In the face of these opinions, it is disquieting to find that, after all, there would appear to be, if not a divorce, something not unlike a judicial separation between commerce and diplomacy.

Overseas Trade Department.

The reorganisation of the Consular Service, of course, was bound to create jealousy between the Foreign Office and the Board of trade, but the difficulty was solved by the formation of the Department of Overseas Trade to the general satisfaction. It has done good work, but what has been achieved by Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland seems to be in jeopardy, owing largely to the determination of the Board of trade to have control. It is eminently desirable that this should be looked into without delay. The mistake of the old system was lack of unified control, but the present position threatens either to perpetuate the old system or to replace it by another in which the Consular and Diplomatic Services will be definitely severed, and the latter will be placed more hopelessly out of touch with commercial matters than it has ever been. And by just as much as it loses touch with trade and political economy will it lose in efficiency. It is perfectly clear that the international questions of the future will be very different from those of the past. Even before the war other countries recognised the commercial importance of Ambassadors, and yet it looks as if we were to slip back into the old groove, in face of example and experience. We have no quarrel with the Board trade, but suggest that it remains satisfied with operating in its own sphere, which is not that of diplomacy. What is needed is that the Foreign Office should be in direct touch with trade at home, and its representative with commerce abroad.

Industrial Re-settlement.

A writer in the *Times* of May 19th opens up a question of special interest. Taking as his text a sentence in a pamphlet on Rural Industries issued by the Ministry of Reconstruction, he argues that it is equally applicable to urban industries. The sentence points out the general recognition of the necessity for "the re-establishment of a due balance between thd country and the town." To achieve this most desirable result, asks the writer; why not bring town industries into the country in order to prevent the country from invading the town. To a certain extent. of course, this process is going on already, and has had a considerable stimulus during the war. But the writer urges that the movement needs organisation for its success. Such organisation might be supplied by local authorities or by public utility companies formed for the purpose, with support from the State in the matter of compulsory purchase of suitable sites and perhaps by some financial assistance in the form of loans. The advantage of the scheme, granted its practiability are obvious–lower costs to the manufacturers, easier transit and more healthy conditions for the workers, greater prosperity for the surrounding districts. As the writer points out, this proposal is an extension of the principle of town-planning to nation-planning. If it be desirable to arrange cities on a definite plan, so it is necessary so to plan the country that towns may be in a proper relation to the country and to each other. The subject is worthy of closer attention.

Still in the Rut.

Mr. Asquith was both emphatic and contemptuous in his denunciation at Newcastle of Imperial Preference. While he ridiculed it as ineffective, he denounced it as the assertion of a principle. Perfectly; that is just what approves it to the majority in Parliament. This majority pains Mr. Asquith, because it contains many Liberals. Had they been voting on it five or six years ago, he lamented, the proposal would have met with their united resistance. Again perfectly. But they have managed to get out of the rut and their leader is still skidding in it. If these notes were political in character, we might deplore the effect of Mr. Asquith's words on the Dominions; as they are not, we rest content with pointing out that Cobdenism cannot expect to be the only thing to escape the effects of the storm which has blown down all other sign-boards. Moreover, it many be observed that when Mr. Asquith gave his adherence to the Paris Resolutions he gave away the case for which he aruged at Newcastle. Apart from that, subsequent events have shattered it. Labour demands conditions of life on a scale created under the high protection of the war; and it is for Free Traders to show how these conditions can be maintained under a system of free imports. Mr. Clynes spoke truly when he said that wha. Labour wants is not only a chance, but a certainty of a larger life, and a state of industrial life in which there would be a positive guarantee of work. These are reasonable demands which all desire to see granted. But the problem is how to do it under a dual system in which expenditure is calculated on one scale and receipts are based on another.

Research and Art.

We are told that an Institute of Industrial Art is to be established under the joint auspices of the Boards of trade and Education to raise the standard of excellence in the product of British designers, craftsmen and manufacturers and, what is equally desirable, to improve the art standards of the consumers. The idea is not only æsthetic, but eminently practical. High quality means increased quantity, as British trade has found out in the past. But in future competition something more will be necessary. The increasing use of machinery means a certain dead level of excellence, and it is there that the necessity for developing originality and tastefulness comes in. Machinery, however, has tended to destroy originality and make work meachanical. Craftsmen have been replaced by workmen. The Institute proposes to have exhibitions, some local and temporary, and one permanently established in London, for the general education of producers and consumers, and to establish closer relations between designers and art workers on the one hand and manufacturers and distributors on the other. The Government is also bestirring itself in the all-important matter of research. Quite recently Sir Frank Health has paid a visit to Sheffield, where the cutlery, file and edge tool trades have fallen behind modern methods. Few people have any idea how highly technical is the manufacture of these articles. It requires most careful scientific reserach, for instance, to ascertain the precise amount of carbon required for certain classes of files. It is proposed to devote £30,000 to scientific research during the next five years; of this sum the Government provide one half, the other half to be found by the three industries involved.

A New Departure:

The uncertainty of the industrial outlook and the gravity of the national interests involved call for immediate and strenuous effort, not only in the manufacturing centres themselves but in Parliament as well, and not alone by legislation, but by instruction. This view we understand, has commended itself to the industrial group in the House of Commons, as the result of a very able address recently delivered to its members by Sir Allan Smith. The outcome of the discussion was a decision to establish an innovation in the relation between the industrial community and the House of Commons, which, if successful, will be productive of valuable results and in any case should prove an interesting experiment. With so many vexed domestic questions and so many problems affecting foreign trade confronting them, the parliamentary representatives of the people can get nothing but benefit from being brought into direct touch with industrialists, while the latter will for the first time be able personally to expound their aims and difficulties to those to whom they look for help:

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